

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 15732 021831Z

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01

INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03

PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00

RSC-01 NSC-05 /085 W

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P R 021803Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6192

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS PRIORITY

SECDEF PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T LONDON 15732

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, UK

SUBJECT: MBFR: UK REACTIONS TO EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

REF: MBFR VIENNA 9462

1. SUMMARY: ON NOV 29 WE DISCUSSED UK REACTIONS TO EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL WITH TICKELL, HEAD FCO WESTERN ORGANIZATIONS DEPARTMENT AND HIS MBFR DESK OFFICER, TERRENCE WOOD. THEY BOTH FELT THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT LET WARSAW PACT KEEP INITIATIVE WITH FREEZE PROPOSAL AND THAT ALLIES SHOULD MAKE SOME COUNTER-PROPOSAL BEFORE END OF PRESENT SESSION. UK MINISTERS ARE TO BE BRIEFED ON FREEZE PROPOSAL EARLY IN WEEK OF DECEMBER 2. END SUMMARY.

2. TICKELL AND WOOD WERE OCCUPIED WITH STUDY OF EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL NOV 27-29 BUT SAID THEY COULD NOT GIVE US DEFINITIVE UK REACTION TO IT BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN UN-

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PAGE 02 LONDON 15732 021831Z

ABLE TO CONSULT MINISTERS. BOTH AGREED THAT THE WARSAW PACT HAD SEIZED THE INITIATIVE WITH THE INTRODUCTION OF

THE PROPOSAL. THEY BELIEVE THE PROPOSAL WILL BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE AND THAT IT WILL RECEIVE SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC SUPPORT IN WEST AT THAT TIME.

3. INITIAL UK THOUGHT IS THAT ALLIES SHOULD NOT REJECT PROPOSAL OUT OF HAND BUT SHOULD MAKE SOME RESPONSE BEFORE END OF PRESENT MBFR SESSION DECEMBER 12. IDEAL SOLUTION WOULD BE TO MAKE COUNTER-PROPOSAL WHICH WOULD TAKE INITIATIVE AWAY FROM WP AND WHICH WOULD STRENGTHEN WESTERN POSITION IN OVERALL NEGOTIATIONS, E.G., BY PROVIDING FOR AN EXCHANGE OF DATA.

4. UK WILL BRIEF MINISTERS ON PROBLEM BUT THIS WILL NOT OCCUR UNTIL EARLY IN WEEK OF DECEMBER 2. (COMMENT: MINISTERS WERE ENGAGED IN LABOR PARTY CONFERENCE NOV 27-30. IT IS LIKELY THAT THIS PREVENTED BRIEFING DURING THAT TIME.) WE DID NOT GET IMPRESSION THAT OFFICIALS WILL ASK MINISTERS TO FORMULATE DEFINITE UK POLICY AT THIS TIME BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO PROBE ON THIS POINT.

5. BOTH OFFICIALS STRESSED THAT AN EARLY INDICATION OF U.S. VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL WOULD HELP HMG IN ITS CONSIDERATION. THEY RECOGNIZE THAT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO GET ALLIED AGREEMENT IN TIME TO MAKE RESPONSE BY DEC 12 BUT THEY THINK WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO DO SO.

6. COMMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT HMG WILL RESPOND FAVORABLY TO THE SUGGESTION PROPOSED BY US/UK/FRG MBFR DELS (REF-TEL) THAT ALLIANCE MAKE AN EARLY COUNTER-PROPOSAL. DRAFT DEVELOPED BY MBFR DELS CONTAINS ALL ELEMENTS MENTIONED TO US BY FCO OFFICIALS. FROM LONDON POINT OF VIEW WE CONCUR WITH US MBFR DEL THAT EARLY U.S. REACTION COULD SERVE AS CATALYST TO ACHIEVE COUNTER-PROPOSAL BY DEADLINE OF DECEMBER 12. END COMMENT. SPIERS

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